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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY D. ZACHARY DATE 3/18/83

RDS☐or XDS☐XT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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In reply refer to
AV

December 20, 1961

Dear Mr. Kreindler:

This is further to my letter of November 22 replying to yours of November 14, 1961 concerning your interest in obtaining information and material which is available on the investigation of the Sabena Boeing 707 aircraft accident at Brussels on February 15, 1961.

Our Embassy at Brussels recently reconfirmed that no official statements, reports, or other information have been released by the Belgian Investigation Commission in connection with this aircraft accident. In discussing this matter with Mr. Nottet, Chairman of the Belgian Investigation Commission, our Embassy learned that the Commission does not plan to issue any statements or reports on the accident investigation until sometime after it receives and reviews the results of certain tests which are now scheduled. Included in the planned tests referred to here are those that the United States Civil Aeronautics Board informally agreed to conduct, at the request of the Belgian authorities, on some pieces of equipment recovered from the wreckage of the aircraft. This equipment has arrived in the United States and the appropriate tests and examinations will be conducted in the near future. The results of the testing will be sent to the Belgian authorities. I hope you understand that it would be highly improper for the United States Government to release the results of the tests to anyone other than the Belgian authorities in this case.

As a matter of interest to you, our Embassy noted in its recent report to the Department that there has been no local press comment or discussion of the accident for several months. The Department is aware that the accident has been reviewed in various news media but, of course, we cannot conclude that those reviews were based on information obtained through official channels.

Mr. Lee S. Kreindler,
Kreindler & Kreindler,
Attorneys at Law,
51 Chambers Street,
New York 7, New York.

CONFIDENTIAL

TRC:AV:G. P. VARTOS
TRC

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The Department will be pleased to communicate with you as soon as information you desire on this accident is received.

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Snowdon
Chief
Aviation Division

TRC:AV:GPVarros:gb 12/19/61

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